



England Resources on findmypast.Co.uk

Mark E. Gardner, England AG®

British Research Specialist ~ Family History Library
gardnerme@ldschurch.org

findmypast has become one of the pre-eminent websites for anyone doing English research. In particular, they have over 1 billion records from the British Isles. Over 1,000 of all their collections can be found only on findmypast and most of these are likely British.

Registering and Subscriptions

findmypast offers both monthly and annual subscriptions. The monthly price for "World" membership is £9.95 per month (\$14.13 US as of 22/2/2016) and the annual price is £119.40 (or \$170.33 per year). The World subscription includes all of their records. They also offer a US & Canada subscription for less which excludes some British records, US & Canada records and those from Ireland and Australia. They also offer three "PayAsYouGo" options with the lowest costing £6.95 (\$9.87 for 60 credits) to start. You receive 60 credits and 90 days to use them. Most records cost 5 credits to view.

Registering requires basic information such as your name, country of residence, email address and a password you will choose. I can also opt to receive their occasional newsletter.

Members of the LDS Church can have a free subscription to many of the records provided. The subscription is technically a unlimited "PayAsYouGo" credits coupon. To obtain access, go to <https://familysearch.org/partneraccess> and follow the instructions. You can also follow that link to obtain accounts with Ancestry.com, MyHeritage.com and AmericanAncestors.org.

The findmypast Home Page

*When you go to www.findmypast.com, the home page will appear, including a search window with boxes for names, birth info and the "World" collection of records with a box for place. If you **search from here**, you **can** select among the "World", "Australia & New Zealand", "Ireland", "United Kingdom" and "United States & Canada". Once you perform your search, you can then **filter the results by the major localities listed above and also record collections.***

*To check for record updates, click on "News" at the top of the page, **scroll down to find the latest "New findmypast Friday Records" update and click on it. By opting to receive their newsletter you can also be informed of updates.***

Finding the England Records

*It is important to know what databases are on a website and findmypast is no exception to this. To browse and then search specific collections, click on the word "Search". It is found on the **blue menu bar across the top of the page with the symbol of a magnifying glass just to the left.** A menu will pop up and at the bottom of the menu is a link to the "A-Z of record sets". Click there **and you will be presented with an alphabetical list of record sets (also called databases).** Try searches by Country (England), County (Bedford, Berkshire, etc, or parish. Try searches by probate records, wills, births, baptisms, marriages, deaths, and burials. Findmypast should have*

the most extensive collection of Church Records indexes and images on a county by county basis for England.

Once a record set has been chosen to search, beside the name and event date options, be aware of the ability to browse subsets in the collection by watching for the word "Browse" in blue next to a search box. This may enable you to further specify just a portion of that record set.

Now to the major collections by British Isles countries. Some of these collections can be found on other websites. When struggling to find an ancestor in a particular set of records on one website search another because the indexes do not always work the same and names may be indexed differently.

England and Wales Records

Over 50 million English and Welsh parish records - Baptism, marriage and burial records from across England and Wales dating back to 1538 – many of which can only be found at findmypast.com. Significant country and county digitized collections include: Wales Parish Registers almost complete from every county in Wales, the Canterbury Cathedral Archives (Kent), Cheshire, Devon (west), Hertfordshire, Middlesex, Norfolk (w/ images), Nottinghamshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Yorkshire with millions more recently added.

British Army service records 1760 – 1915 – With nearly 40 available indexed databases, whether it is the Revolutionary War, Waterloo, Boer War or one of the World Wars they have you covered (including some US army records).

British census - The most complete England, Wales and Scotland census collection available online. This includes indexes and images 1841-1891.

Civil Registration indexes 1837-2007 – Find more English birth marriage and death records - The most complete online index of birth, marriage and death records, including records of births, marriages and deaths at sea.

Unique Passenger Lists - Passenger lists for ships leaving the UK 1890 – 1960, bound for long-haul destinations such as the U.S. and Canada.

Unique English, Welsh and Scottish Newspapers - In the coming months we will have English, Scottish, Welsh and Irish newspapers going back to 1700 from our partnership with the British Library. From birth announcements to stories about ancestors eloping, old newspapers can add fine detail to your British genealogy records. Remember that each of the major genealogy websites may have their own indexes.

The 1939 Register - Taken on 29 September, the 1939 Register contains crucial information on 40 million people. This information would, in the short term, be vital in preparation for war. In the longer term, it would go on to play a part in the creation of the NHS and more. The Register will tell you: full names, addresses, dates of birth, marital status, occupations, and whether the individual was a member of the armed services or reserves. It will also have names of those who married with surnames of their husbands. The register was updated into the 1960's. Leaving people cannot be viewed except with permissions.

Electoral Register – 1832-1932, with 220 million names with images attached

Quaker Church Registers – 1578-1841 with about 500,000 names available to search online